

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

April 10, 2000

LB 1279

there will be motions offered on this bill, but in the present form, there's no way that I can support it. Senator Wickersham did offer an amendment, the one that Senator Bourne attempted to amend, which does clearly say now that a person must have a permanent disability and lack mobility. So that means you got to be flat on your back, unable to move without some kind of mechanical assist or prosthesis, and if you don't have both of those conditions, you cannot get the homestead exemption. But if you're a veteran, all you have to be is totally disabled, whatever that means, and that doesn't mean you cannot walk. It does not mean any of the things that we want to say the term "permanent disability" might refer to. There might be a definition of total disability somewhere in the workers' comp statutes, I just don't know. But when we talk about veterans who have a nonservice-connected disability or illness, that person can get this benefit that we're talking about, the homestead exemption. Once a person is no longer in the military, why should benefits be given to that person whose disability has nothing to do with having been in the military? I'm not a war worshiper. I don't love weapons. I don't need a weapon to be an extension of me and my personality. I don't need a weapon to make me feel like I'm a man. But there are people who worship weapons, they worship war, they worship killing. So if one has been involved in killing on a monumental scale, then they give you a bit of metal and a piece of rag that, they call it a rivet and a medal, and they stick it on your jacket, and now that certifies you as a approved killer. And they can't say that they send these young people over there to kill to protect America, democracy and all these other things when often they're propping up the kind of dictator that would not be tolerated in this country if the country is really about democracy as is claimed. One of the biggest oil outfits in Vietnam was City's Services, and they were discovering oil off the coast of Vietnam, and much activity by the American military had to do with protecting oil interests of the oil producers in this country, the oil magnates, those who control oil. So when I see the Legislature drawing lines between people who share a disability and will say, because you were in the army or the navy or the air force or the marines, even if you were a supply sergeant, even if you were a mess cook,...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.